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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of :  
Katashi NAKASHIMA et al. : **Mail Stop: PCT**  
Serial No. NEW : **Attorney Docket No. 2006-0018A**  
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THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: